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Forest Service

Westside Forest Insect & Disease Service Center

16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055-7248

File Code: 3420 **Date:** February 11, 2009
Route To:

Subject: Falls View Campground Hazard Trees

To: District Ranger, Hood Canal Ranger District, Olympic National Forest

Dean Yoshina,

On January 14, 2009, Gregory Filip, regional forest pathologist, and Kristen Chadwick, forest pathologist currently detailed to the Westside Forest Insect and Disease Service Center, visited Falls View campground. Susie Graham requested a site visit to assess hazard trees, specifically focusing on laminated root rot. With us were local district personnel Susie Graham, Eric Fosse, and Jennifer Fujii.

The campground is primarily Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western redcedar. It is in a protected location and rarely experiences high winds. The district has done yearly evaluations for hazard trees. Standing dead trees have been felled each year before the campground is open to the public. We noticed three main factors contributing to hazard tree conditions: laminated root rot, annosus root disease, and pini stem decay.

Laminated Root Rot

Laminated root rot, caused by *Phellinus weirii,* was diffuse throughout the stand. There is a history of trees dying while they are standing. Most likely these are trees with some level of infection from *P. weirii* and subsequently being killed by Douglas-fir beetle. Douglas-fir beetle is known for attacking trees that are stressed by laminated root rot. Laminated root rot affected trees have the potential to be extremely dangerous in recreation areas, especially when there is a history of live-tree failures and when trees are exposed to high winds.

Because Falls View campground has diffuse laminated root rot and district personnel know that there have been a few live-tree failures, we recommend that trees with crown symptoms be removed. We also recommend that all host trees within 15 ft. of a known infected tree be removed to reduce possible risk of live-tree failure. When felled, each tree stump should be examined for the presence of the characteristic stain on the stump associated with infection by *P. weirii*. If the stump exhibits staining, then surrounding host species within 15 ft. of the stump should also be felled. If the District personnel are not familiar with identifying the characteristic stain, someone from Forest Health Protection (FHP) will gladly help identify the stain when the trees are felled.

In some areas, there are recently cut stumps with characteristic decay from laminated root rot. We also recommend the 15 ft. spacing from stumps that exhibit decay.

Annosus Root Disease

Although there are currently no hemlock marked for removal in the campground, we did note signs of annosus root disease on hemlock in the campground. A hemlock near the entrance was windthrown with rotten roots due to annosus. Should any western hemlock be removed in the future, the district should consider applying Sporax to the stump within two days, to prevent infection of the stump by annosus root disease and reduce the probability of it infecting additional trees.

Pini Conk

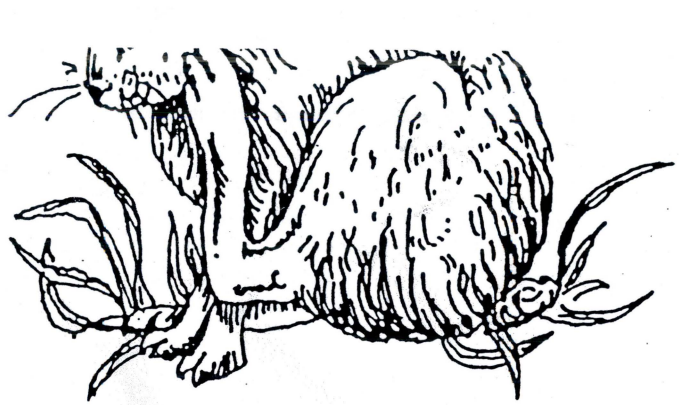
We also found several living Douglas-firs with conks from red ring rot (sometimes referred to as white speck), caused by *Phellinus pini*, a common stem-decay fungus. Most trees had numerous conks in close proximity to one another indicating high likelihood of failure. We recommend that these trees be felled before the campground is re-opened. Douglas-firs with only a few small conks usually only need to be monitored.

While with the district personnel, we marked the current trees that needed to be felled for public safety reasons. We commend the district for the current annual inspection of the campground and recommend continued annual inspections along with documenting what trees are being felled and what trees are going to be monitored annually.

Our staff is always available for consultation should the district need further guidance or assistance in the future. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at dhildebrand@fs.fed.us or 503-668-1474, Kris Chadwick at klchadwick@fs.fed.us or (541)383-5587, or Greg Filip at gmfilip@fs.fed.us or (503)808-2997.

/s/Diane M. Hildebrand
DIANE M. HILDEBRAND
Pathologist

cc: Kristen L Chadwick
Gregory M Filip
Bruce Hostetler
Susie Graham
Eric Fosse
Jennifer Fujii



$ = Fee Station

ONE WAY

Fee Station

U.S. Highway 101

TO QUILCENE

6	36-45" - site #2
15	32-53" across site #3
12	34" Fee station
16	26-41 Back site 6-8
11	16-31 site 9
3	16-26 Back site 11
5	16-22 Back site 10
12	12-23 Site 12
2	12-29 Inside loop at N. turn

N. Loop: 6, 19, 12, 16, 11, 5 = 69

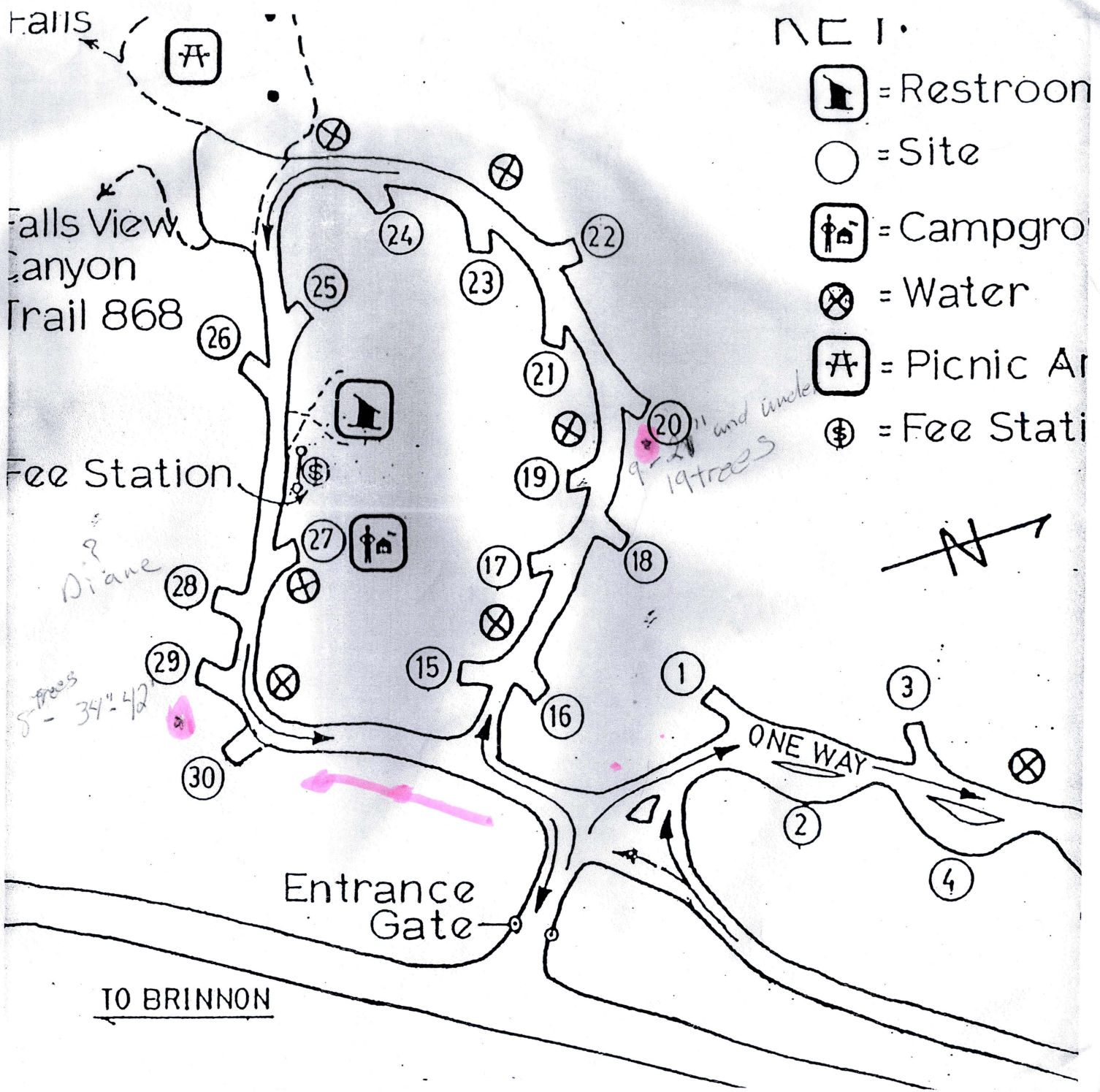
3, 12, 20 - 12-29

N. Loop 99 trees 9 areas

S Loop 27 trees 2 areas

126

Total 11 areas


Falls
Falls View
Canyon
Trail 868
Fee Station
Entrance
Gate
TO BRINNON
ONE WAY
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= Campgro
= Water
= Picnic Ar
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Falls View Campground

North Loop

1) One Small Fir near STOP Sign
2) 45" Dead Fir across From Site #2 6 trees 36-45" +1?
3) Small Dead Maple Left side of Road Near site #4 -12 Trees
4) 8" Dead alder North of Parking Spur site #6 -34
5) Small Dead Maple across From site #11
6) Small Dead Maple Between Sites #14 & 15
7) Dead Fir 30' North of Fire ring
8) 12' Dead Small Maple on exit Road and Hwy 101.
9) 28" & 30" Dieing Firs Left Side of site #9
10) 15" Dieing Fir right side of parking spur site #10
11) 23" Dieing Fir site #12, Please save Cedar if possible.
12) 14" Dead Fir back of site #12
13) 30" & 24" Dead Fir Left Side of road at North Loop gate. Follow Flagging

Pag

Falls View Campground Continued

South Loop

1) 15" Fir Snag 75' North of Parking Spur. Follow Flagging. site #18
2) 3 Dead Firs To 15" 100' South west of Fire ring. site #19
3) 2 Dead Firs To 8" 50' South west of site #21
4) 4 Small Dead Firs end of view Trail.
   - 21" 30' Right South of electric Box and towards Road Hwy 101